

# China's Economic Update: Downgrade 2H23 and 2024 forecasts

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# **Executive summary**

- 2023 growth target "around 5%" at the NPC; our latest forecast at 4.8%
- Post-reopening recovery is bumpy and uneven
  - Solid recovery in 1Q at 10.4%q/q saar, but loss of momentum in 2Q at -0.6%q/q saar
  - Full-year 2023 growth forecast: downward revision to 4.8%y/y (real terms); 4.1%y/y (nominal terms)
  - Quarterly profile: 10.4% / -0.6% / 4.1% / 4.5%q/q saar in the four quarters, respectively
  - Growth drivers: consumption and investment to contribute 3.4%pts and 1.6%, net exports to drag 0.3%pt

## Uneven recovery; notable near-term headwinds

- Uneven recovery: services vs. production, catering / jewelry sales vs. other consumption, policy tailwind sectors (e.g., NEV) vs. other sectors, public vs. private investment
- Double-dip in the housing market is the new baseline, with weak land sales and new home starts, potential spillover to shadow bank risks and LGFV stress
- A key policy challenge is weakness in private-sector confidence (corporates, households, homebuyers).
- External sector headwinds

## Policy easing started in June, with more to come, but no bazooka-like stimulus

- Fiscal: policy bank support; acceleration in special local government bond issuance in Aug-Sep; central government may allow provincial governments to use remaining room from local government debt ceiling to mitigate local government debt pressure
- Monetary: 15bp 1y MLF rate cut and 10bp 7d reverse repo rate cut in August, followed by 10bp 1y LPR cut but no change in 5y LPR; expecting 25bp RRR cut in 3Q, plus structural monetary policy instruments
- Housing: policy relaxation in coming weeks, e.g., mortgage policy and home purchase restrictions
- Tolerance for flexible CNY movements

## China economic outlook

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	Averege			
	Average			
	2016-20	2021	2022	2023f
Real GDP, % change	5.7	8.1	3.0	4.8
Consumption <sup>1</sup>	2.9	5.3	1.0	3.4
Inv estment <sup>1</sup>	2.5	1.1	1.5	1.6
Net trade <sup>1</sup>	0.2	1.7	0.5	-0.3
Consumer prices, ‰ya	2.2	0.9	2.0	0.4
% Dec/Dec	2.1	1.5	1.8	0.6
Government balance, % of GDP	-3.0	-3.1	-2.8	-3.1
Merchandise trade balance (US\$ bn)	451	554	685	650
Exports	2,301	3,220	3,364	3,214
Imports	1,851	2,666	2,679	2,564
Current account balance	156	317	418	257
% of GDP	1.2	1.8	2.3	1.4
International reserves, (US\$ bn)	3,129	3,271	3,081	3,191

We forecast full-year growth at 4.8% for 2023, but nominal growth only 4.1%

Deflation risk: GDP deflator, PPI. Low CPI inflation

We estimate augmented deficit at 12.9% of GDP for 2022 (1.9%pts higher than 2021), which will fall by 1.3% to 11.7% of GDP in 2023

Net exports will turn from a lift factor to a drag factor in 2023.

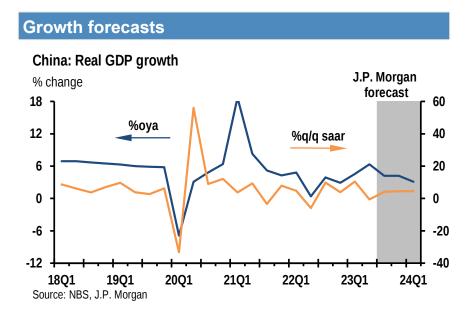
We estimate current account surplus at 1.4% of GDP in 2023.

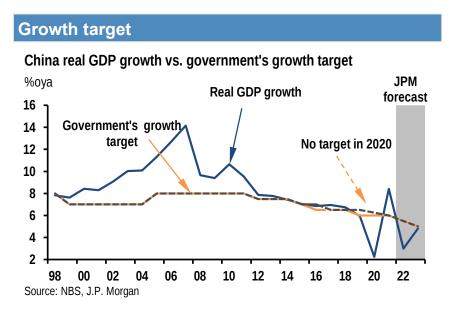
Source: NBS; J.P. Morgan forecasts

<sup>1.</sup> Contribution to growth of GDP.

## China economic outlook

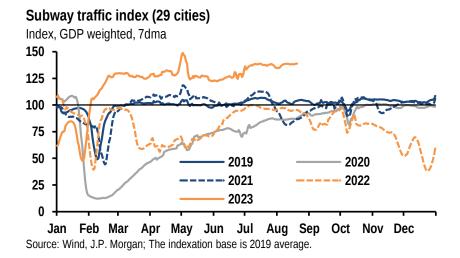
- 2023 growth target: "around 5%"
- Policy pivot in November 2022 contributed to 1Q23 recovery, but followed by big loss of momentum in 2Q
- Near-term headwinds: housing activities slowed down again; weak demand (domestically and externally); weak confidence and private investment; deflation risk; youth unemployment
- Full-year 2023 growth forecast is 4.8%y/y (real term); nominal GDP growth will likely slow to 4.1%



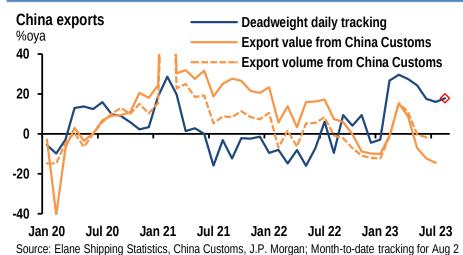


## Reopening theme

## Solid mobility recovery

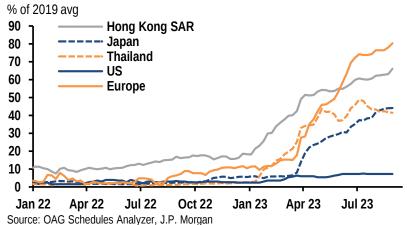


## Deadweight tonnage of departing ships



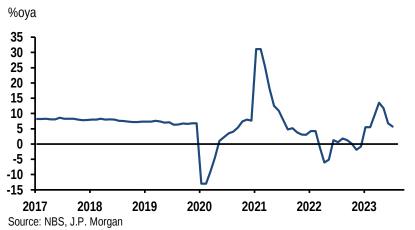
## **International flights**

## China's scheduled flights to oversea destinations

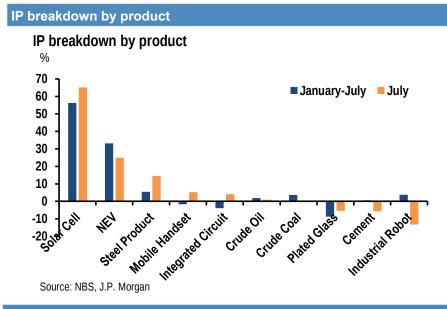


#### Service production index

## **China: Service production index**

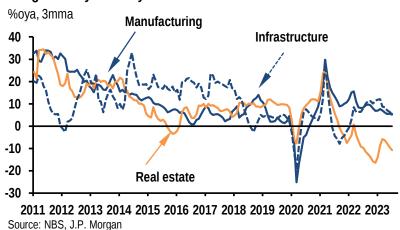


## Post-reopening recovery is divergent



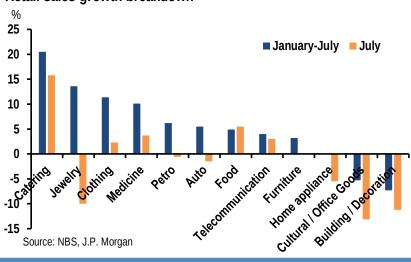
#### FAI in breakdown

## **FAI** growth by industry



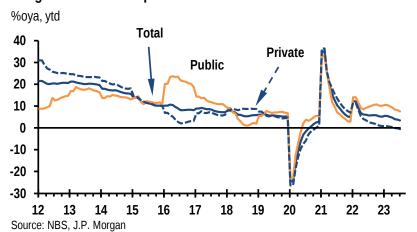
## Retail sales breakdown by component

## Retail sales growth breakdown



## Public vs. private investment

### FAI growth: Public vs private sectors



## Market concerns

## Top concerns about China

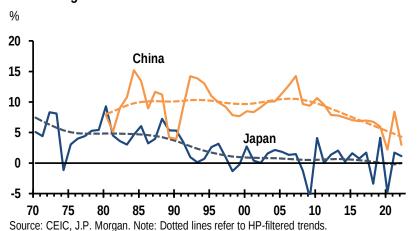
#### Which issues on China concerns you the most?



#### Source: J.P. Morgan Strategic Research. Survey on April 17, 2023.

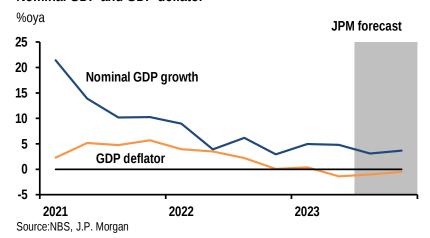
## Japanification?

## Real GDP growth

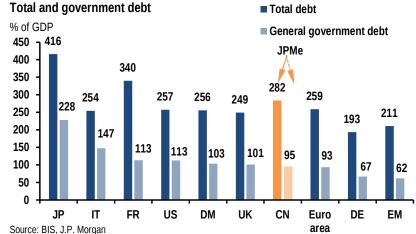


## **Macro: Nominal GDP matters**

#### Nominal GDP and GDP deflator



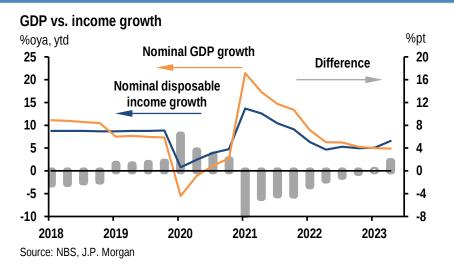
## LGFV, debt problem and financial stability



Note: JPM estimates for China as of 4Q22, and government debt includes central and local governemnt debt and LGFV debt; BIS estimates for other economies as of 3Q22.

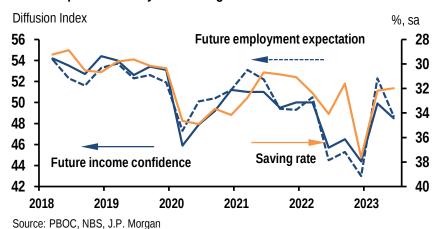
# **Consumption and services**

## Household income recovery



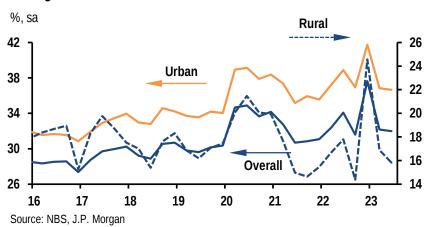
## Consumer confidence declined in 2Q

### PBOC depositor survey and saving rate



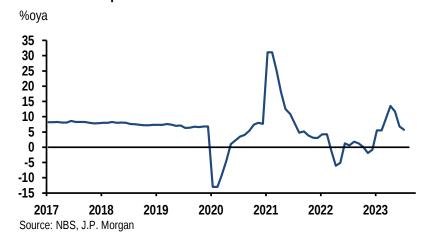
## Excess saving: divergence between urban and rural households

#### Saving rate



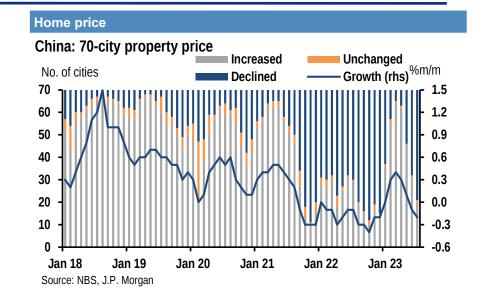
### Service production index

## **China: Service production index**



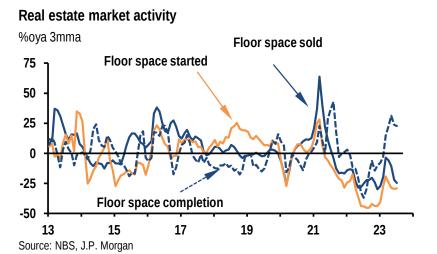
# Investment: double-dip in the housing market

#### **Housing market** Housing policy and housing market activity Index, in reverse order Index **Housing policy index Housing market** activity index

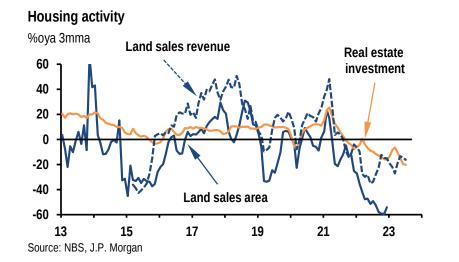


## **Housing transaction / completion**

Source: NBS; J.P. Morgan



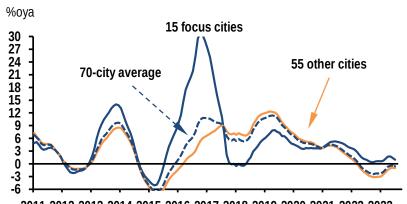
#### Land sales still weak



# Housing market: double-dip is the new baseline

## **Cross-city divergence**

## China's house prices



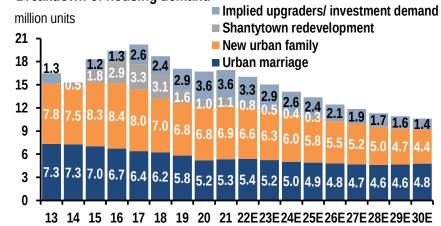
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023

Source: NBS; J.P. Morgan

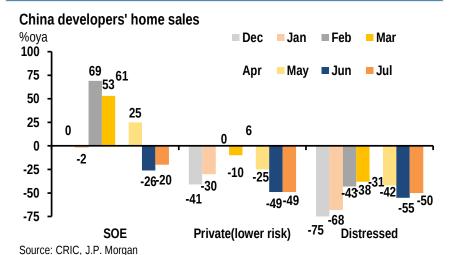
### Housing market slowdown is structural

Source: CEIC, NBS, CREIS, Soufun, J.P. Morgan estimates

## Breakdown of housing demand

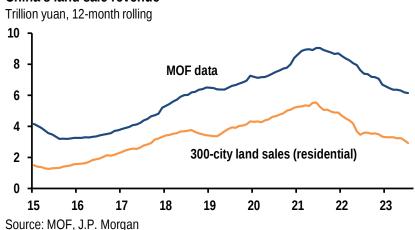


## Divergence among developers



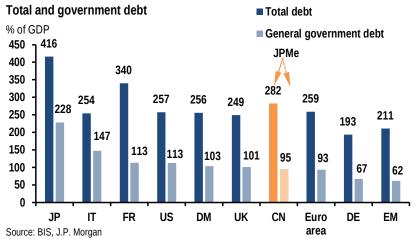
## Falling land sales

#### China's land sale revenue



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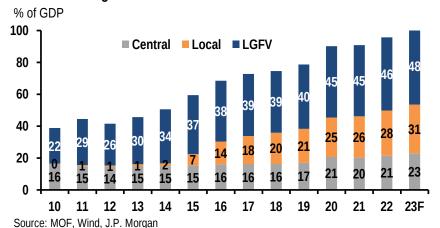
#### China's debt level



Note: JPM estimates for China as of 4Q22, and government debt includes central and local government debt and LGFV debt; BIS estimates for other economies as of 3Q22.

#### Government debt breakdown

### Breakdown of government debt in China



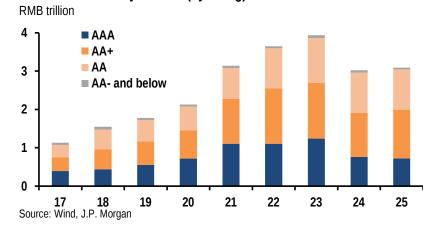
#### **China LGFV debt**

## China LGFV debt %oya, 4qma



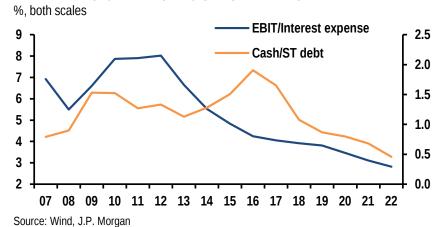
### LGFV bond maturity amount

## LGFV bond maturity amount (by rating)



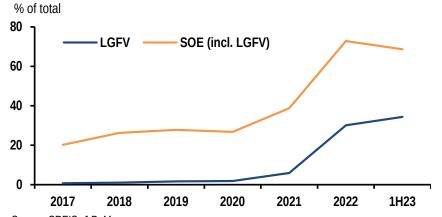
## LGFV debt repayment capacity

## LGFV debt repayment capacity (sample median)



## LGFV land acquisition value

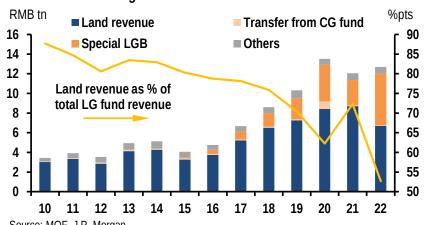
## Land acquisition value breakdown by ownership



Source: CREIS, J.P. Morgan

### Local government fund revenue breakdown

### Breakdown of local government fund revenue



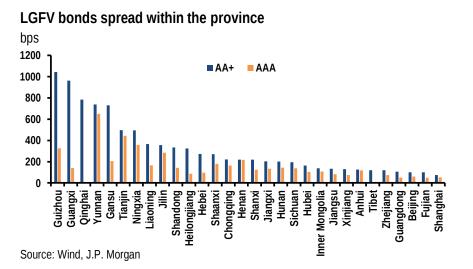
Source: MOF, J.P. Morgan

### Land and housing prices

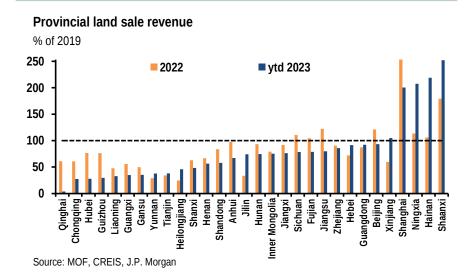
### China's land and housing prices



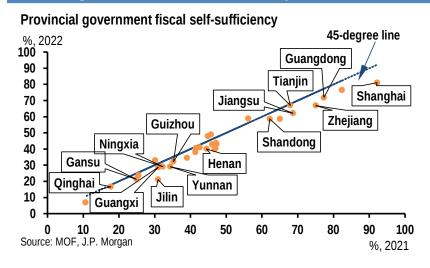
## LGFV bonds spread within the province



#### Provincial land sales revenue



### Provincial government fiscal self-sufficiency



## China provincial debt risk matrix



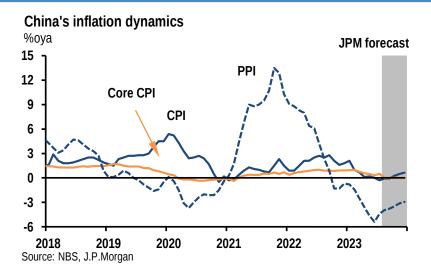
Table: Provincial debt burden and fiscal strength

	Province	Total debt	GDP per capita	Fiscal revenue	Fiscal self- sufficiency	Land sale revenue	Special LGB	Depsit-Loan	Coupon-MLF rate	Cash/ST debt
		% of GDP	RMB th	% of GDP	%	% of 2019	RMB bn	% of debt	%	%
	Beijing	43.6	190	13.7	77	121	80	334.0	1.0	1.7
	Fujian	50.3	127	6.3	59	105	183	-13.8	1.3	0.6
	Guangdong	30.5	102	10.3	72	87	431	115.2	0.8	1.0
_	Hainan	61.1	67	12.2	40	106	25	39.6	1.1	1.8
Eastern	Hebei	56.4	57	9.6	44	72	229	107.3	2.0	0.5
Eas	Jiangsu	95.2	144	7.5	62	122	176	8.2	1.7	0.5
	Shandong	62.2	86	8.1	59	84	347	43.3	2.0	0.5
	Shanghai	36.9	180	17.0	81	253	35	399.9	0.7	1.8
	Tianjin	151.9	119	11.3	67	34	92 [	-19.7	2.6	0.3
	Zhejiang	123.2	118	10.3	67	90	262	2.0	1.5	0.5
	Anhui	75.7	74	8.0	43	97	171	25.4	1.7	0.7
	Henan	54.4	62	6.9	40	67	248	52.7	2.0	0.4
Central	Hubei	75.2	92	6.1	38	77	185	18.4	1.8	0.5
ခွ်	Hunan	87.2	74	6.4	34	93	149	17.6	2.2	0.3
	Jiangxi	108.4	71	9.2	40	92	173	2.0	2.0	0.6
	Shanxi	33.7	74	13.5	59	63	68	148.9	1.7	1.2
	Chongqing	104.8	91	7.2	43	61	140	-4.0	2.6	0.3
	Gansu	127.4	45	8.1	21	50	79	-8.2	2.0	0.3
	Guangxi	96.8	52	6.4	29	56	89	-12.1	3.3	0.3
	Guizhou	134.4	52	9.4	32	76	48 [	-30.9	3.8	0.1
_	Inner Mongoli	46.9	96	12.2	48	79	28	54.3	2.7	0.6
Western	Ningxia	45.1	70	9.1	29	113	2 [	-18.2	2.8	0.2
Wes	Qinghai	93.0	61	9.1	17	61	14	15.5	3.2	0.3
	Sichuan	132.1	68	8.6	41	111	227	25.2	2.2	0.4
	Shaanxi	83.8	83	10.1	49	179	97	55.5	2.4	0.4
	Tibet	49.6	58	8.4	7	-	2	86.5	1.3	0.4
	Xinjiang	72.6	69	10.6	33	60	117	25.1	1.8	0.6
	Yunnan	70.4	62	6.7	29	29	112	-10.2	3.4	0.4
stern	Heilongjiang	53.7	51	8.1	24	25	43	139.2	3.9	0.2
North-eastern	Liaoning	34.3	69	8.7	40	48	87	201.0	3,5	0.2
Non	Jilin	88.5	55	6.5	21	34	61	46.7	3.3	0.5
Nati	onal average	76.8	84	9.2	43.3	84.8	129.0	59.6	2.2	0.6

Source: CEIC, Wind, CREIS, J.P. Morgan

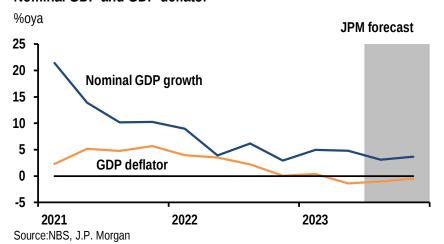
## **Deflation risk**

#### Low CPI with PPI deflation



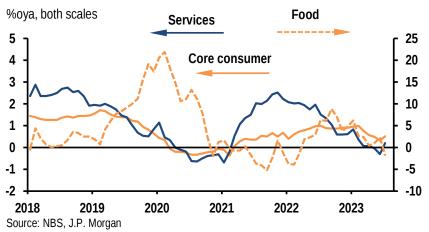
## Slower nominal GDP growth

## Nominal GDP and GDP deflator



### **CPI** components

## CPI inflation



## Lagging consumption recovery

## IP and retail sales



## **Deflation risk**

## **CPI** basket weight

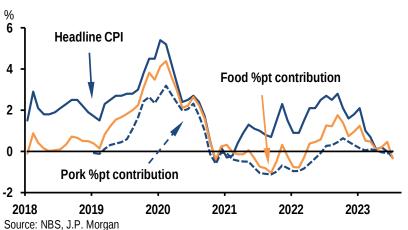
Table: China CPI basket weight

Items	Weight (2010)	Weight (2020)	Change
Food, tobacco& liquor	36.3	30.1	-6.2
- Food	32.8	21.0	-11.8
Clothing	9.2	5.8	-3.4
Residence	14.7	23.4	8.7
- Utility: Water, electricity& fuel	-	5.7	-
Household facilities, articles& services	6.0	5.9	-0.1
Transportation&communication	11.3	13.0	1.7
- Vehicle fuel	-	2.7	-
Education, culture& entertainment	12.9	10.1	-2.8
Healthcare& medical services	9.7	8.7	-1.0
Miscellaneous goods& services	-	2.9	-

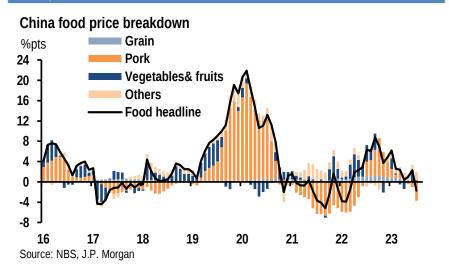
Source: NBS, J.P. Morgan

## Food, esp. pork price, has been a key driver for CPI inflation

#### **Contribution to CPI inflation**

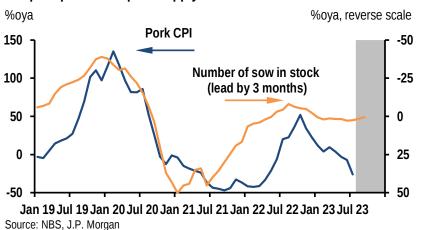


## Food price breakdown



## Pork price dynamics

## CPI pork prices and pork supply



## **Deflation risk**

## Modest wage inflation pressure

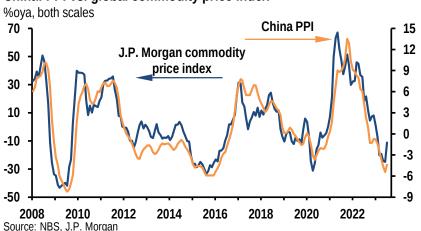
## Family service prices and wage growth



Source: NBS, J.P. Morgan; Average wage growth per annum compared to 2019 for 2021.

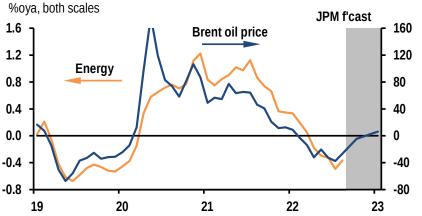
## PPI and commodity price

## China: PPI vs. global commodity price index



## Modest pass-through from global energy prices

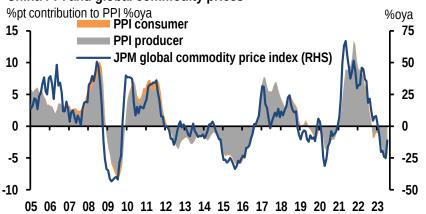
## China energy CPI and global oil price



Source: NBS, J.P. Morgan; Energy=weighted average of vehicle fuel and utility prices.

### PPI and commodity price

## China PPI and global commodity prices

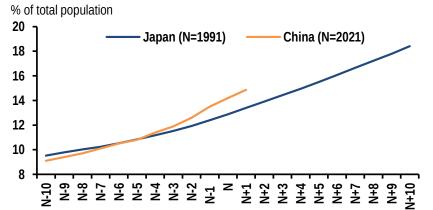


Source: NBS, J.P. Morgan

# **China's Japanification risk**

## Population aging is moving faster in China

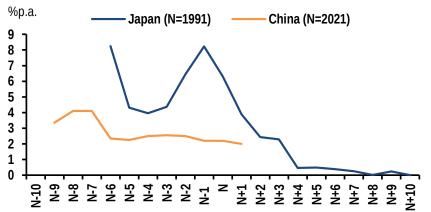
## Aged population (65 and above)



Source: CEIC, NBS, J.P.Morgan

## Room for policy rate cuts is smaller

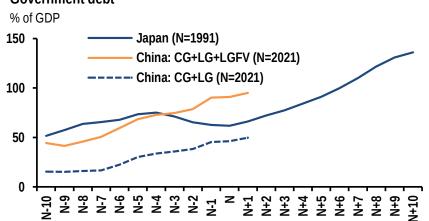
#### **Policy rate**



Source: BOJ, PBOC, J.P. Morgan

#### Room for fiscal stimulus for China is smaller

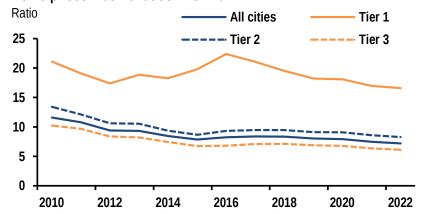
#### **Government debt**



Source: CEIC, NBS, J.P.Morgan

#### China's housing price overvaluation is less severe

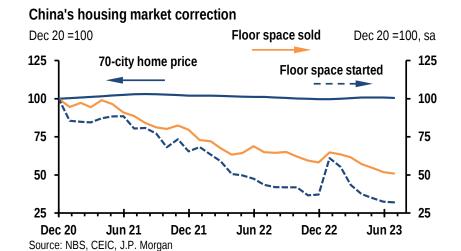
## Home price / income ratios in China



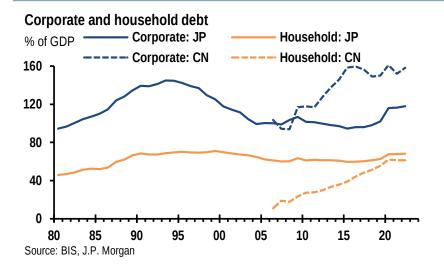
Source: Wind, J.P. Morgan calculation (90sqm apartment price).

# **China's Japanification risk**

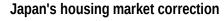
## China: protect house prices, volumes correct dramatically

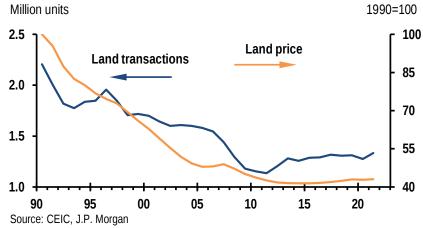


## Corporate and household debt



## Japan: prices and volume fell simultaneously

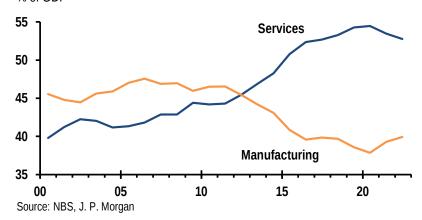




## Manufacturing vs. services in China

## Manufacturing vs. services in China

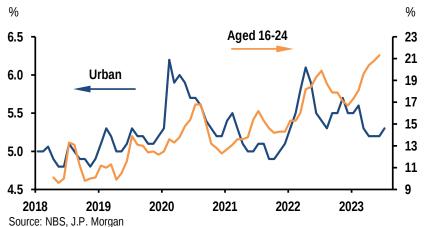
% of GDP



# Youth unemployment

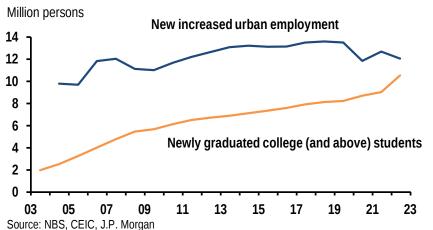
## Record-high youth unemployment; data release suspended

## China: Survey-based unemployment rate



## Changes in labor supply: more college graduates

## **Changing labor supply**



#### Global experience

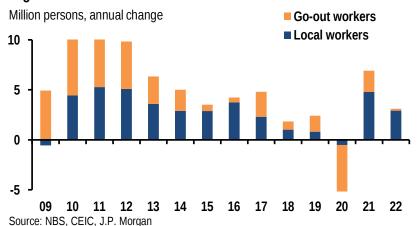
#### Unemployment rates in selected countries (%)

Country	Period	Average unemployment rate		Peak unemployment rate	
		Aggregate Youth		Aggregate	Youth
US	1Q00-1Q23	5.8	12.2	14.4	26.9
UK	1Q00-1Q23	5.5	12.9	8.5	20.2
Italy	1Q00-1Q23	9.3	28.8	14.4	47.0
Spain	1Q00-1Q23	15.7	34.0	26.9	56.9
Greece	1Q00-1Q23	15.6	36.1	28.2	62.1
Portugal	1Q00-1Q23	9.7	23.9	18.6	42.6
Japan	1Q00-1Q23	3.9	7.1	5.8	13.2
China	1Q18-1Q23	5.2	14.1	6.2	20.4

Source: CEIC, J.P. Morgan

## Changes in labor supply: fewer migrant workers

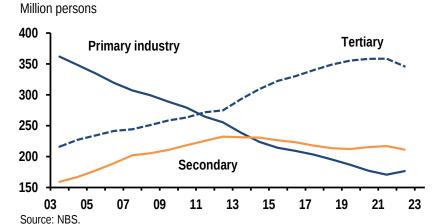
### Migrant workers



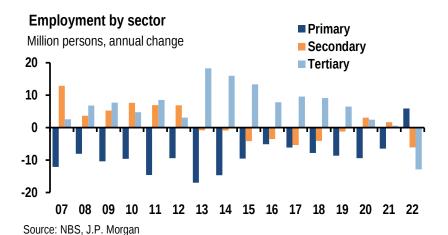
# Youth unemployment

## Big change in employment structure in 2022

## Total employment in China by industry



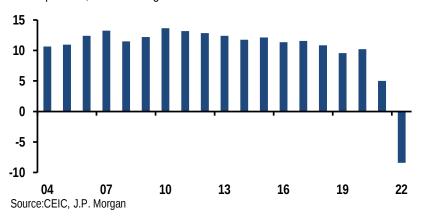
## Increase in agricultural employment in 2022



## **Urban employment declined in 2022**

## Urban employment in China

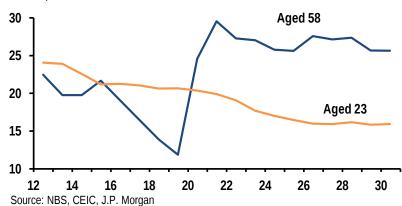
Million persons, annual change



## The impact of demographic change

## Retiring vs. new workers

Million persons



# **External challenges**

## China's trade activity

### China: merchandise exports and imports

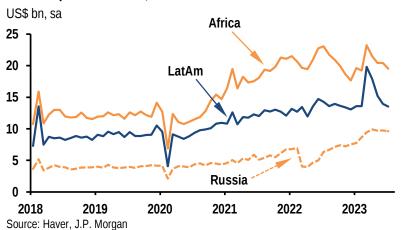
US\$ billion,sa, 3mma



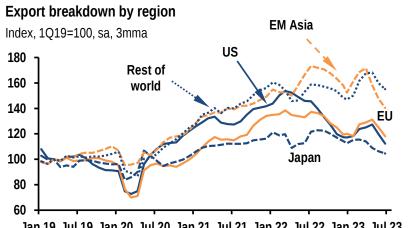
Source: China Customs, J.P. Morgan

## New destination of exports

## China exports to Africa, LatAm and Russia



## **Export breakdown by region**

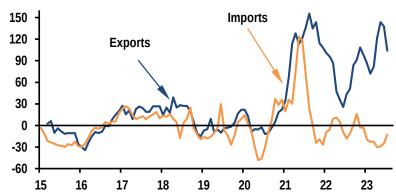


Jan 19 Jul 19 Jan 20 Jul 20 Jan 21 Jul 21 Jan 22 Jul 22 Jan 23 Jul 23 Source: China Customs, J.P. Morgan

## New export product: auto

#### China automobile trade

US\$, %oya, 3mma



Source: China Customs, J.P. Morgan.

## Policy easing: watch for concrete policy measures post-Politburo

- Policy shift started in June; Politburo meeting laid out modestly positive policy signals
  - **Fiscal:** Tax and fee reduction / deferral for SMEs; acceleration in special local government bond issuance; product-specific consumption support (NEW, home appliance, furniture)
  - Monetary: 10bp policy rate cut in June; strong credit in June; 200bn yuan new re-lending; 15bp MLF rate cut in August followed by 10bp cut in 1Y LPR while 5Y LPR remained unchanged.
  - Housing: city-level housing policy relaxation; extension of 16 measures (liquidity support for developers)
- Weaker-than-expected 2Q GDP and July data implies further policy easing, but no bazooka-like stimulus
  - Incentive: not similar urgency as in 2020 or 2022; 5% growth target may still be achievable though facing higher uncertainty.
  - **Ability:** room for policy stimulus is more limited. Public debt (central government debt + local government debt + LGFV debt) is now 95% of GDP; short-end policy rate is 1.8%; average RRR is 7.6%
  - Policy effectiveness: policy transmission tends to be weaker. Policy bias in favor of production and supply, in favor of technology innovations and manufacturing upgrade is problematic and contributes to deflation risk and high youth unemployment. On the positive side, the July Politburo meeting and a series of policy meetings have focused on stabilizing the housing market, supporting consumption and restoring confidence of private entrepreneurs. In the near term, concrete measures and implementation will be key.

## Policy outlook

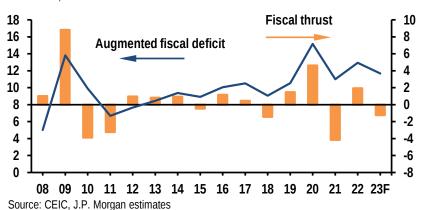
- **Fiscal:** More likely using policy bank support, the central government may allow provincial governments to use remaining room from local government debt ceiling to mitigate local government debt pressure
- Monetary: 25bp RRR cut in 3Q; expand structural monetary policy instrument
- Housing: further housing policy relaxation will likely be introduced in the coming weeks, e.g., relaxed mortgage policy and relaxation in home purchase restrictions

# Fiscal policy

## Fiscal policy stance

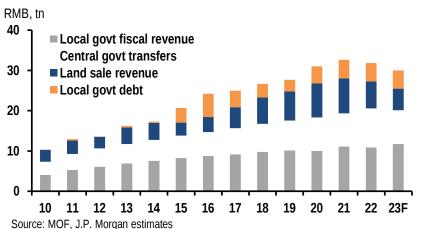
## Fiscal policy stance

% of GDP, both scales

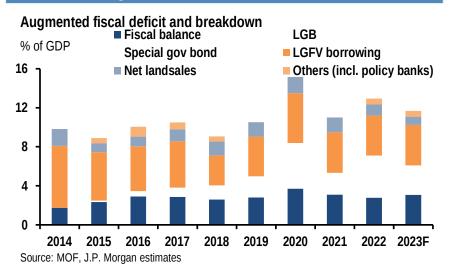


## Local government funding sources

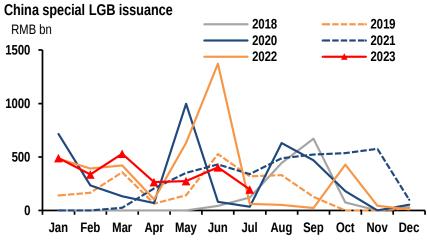
## Local government funding sources



## Breakdown of augmented fiscal deficit



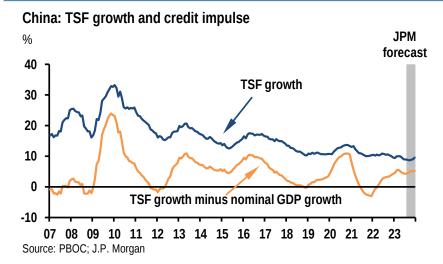
#### Frontloaded fiscal policy



Source: MOF, J.P. Morgan

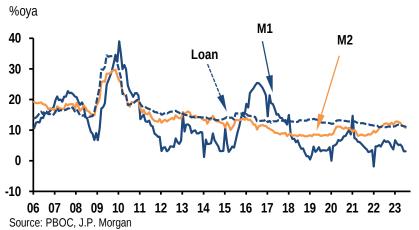
## **Monetary policy**

### TSF growth and credit impulse



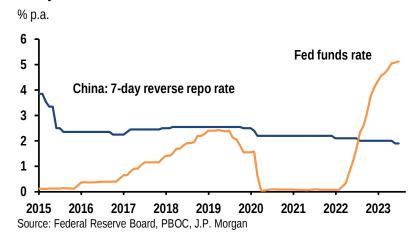
## Money supply and loan growth

## China: Money supply and loan growth



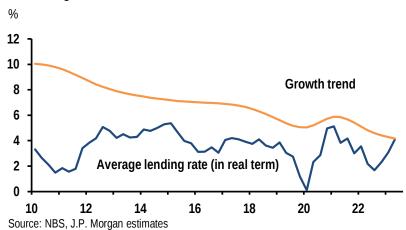
#### Through-the-cycle attenuation approach in policy rates in China

## Policy rates in the US vs. China



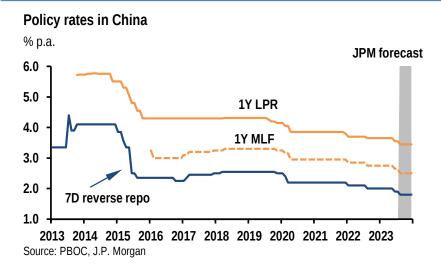
#### Real rates in China: "Golden rule"

## China's "golden rule"

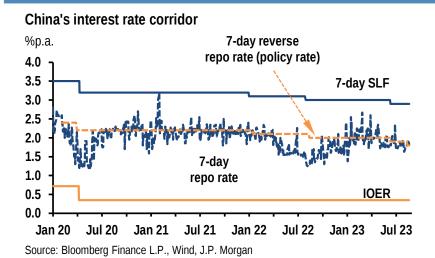


# **Monetary policy**

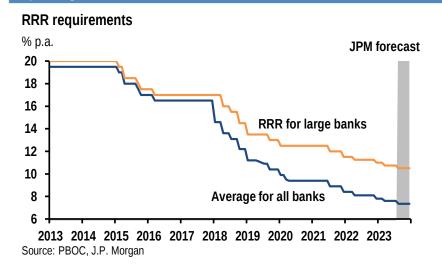
## Recent policy rate cut



#### Interest rate corridor



## **Expecting another RRR cut in 3Q**

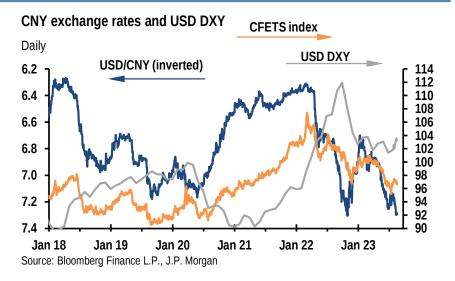


### Counter-cyclical market interest rates



# **Exchange rate**

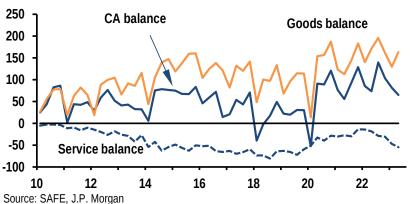
## **CNY** exchange rate



## **Current account surplus**

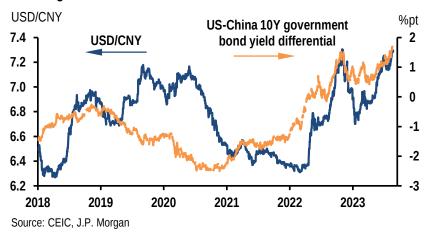
#### China: Current account balance

US\$bn, quarterly



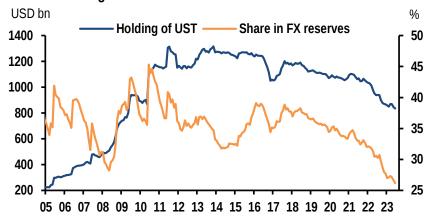
## US-China interest rate differentials

#### Exchange rate vs. interest rate differentials



## **UST holding in FX reserves**

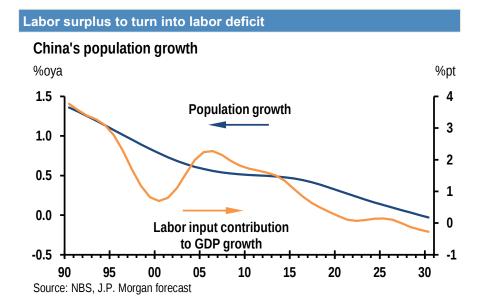
## China's holding of UST in FX reserves

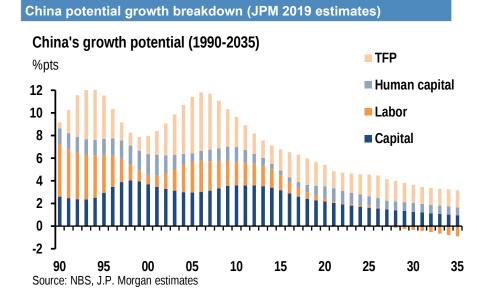


Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury, SAFE, J.P. Morgan

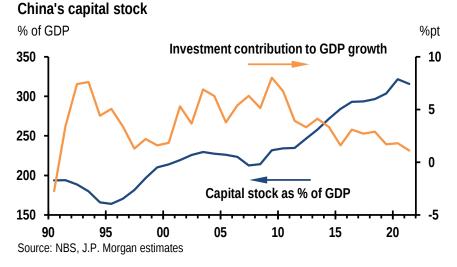
# China's long-term growth

- Downward trend in potential growth
  - Declining contribution of input factors
  - Population growth
  - Capital stock
  - Productivity increase is critical: risk is to the downside in coming years









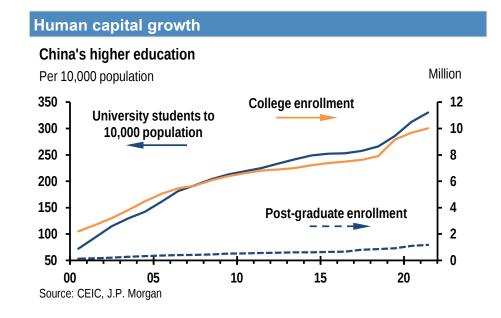
# China's long-term growth

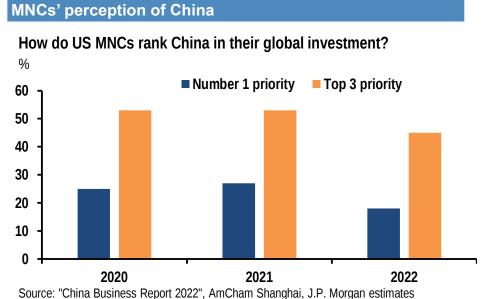
## Advantages

- Large domestic market
- Comprehensive manufacturing sector
- Engineering dividend
- Many innovative entrepreneurs

## Challenges

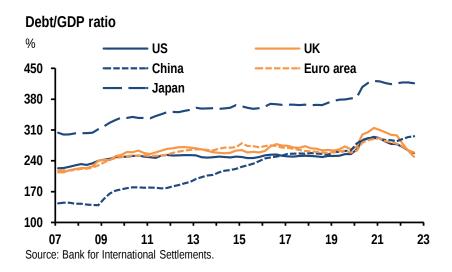
- US-China technology decoupling
- Global supply chain relocation
- Confidence of private entrepreneurs
- Risk: TFP may come off quickly like in 1989-91





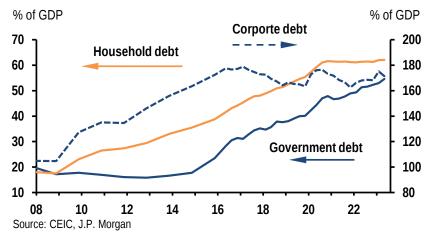
# **Challenges ahead: Debt problem**

### Debt/GDP ratio in major economies



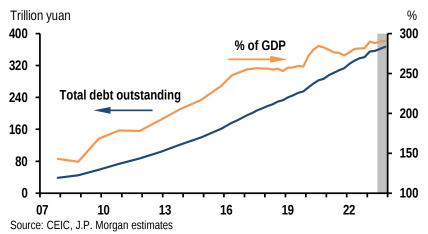
## Government led the leverage increase

## Breakdown of China's non-financial debt



## Debt/GDP ratio may increase by 13%pts in 2023

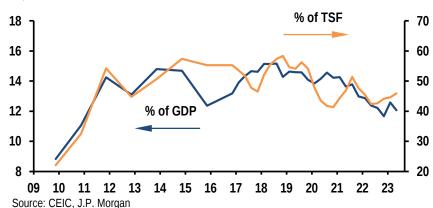
## China's total non-financial debt



#### High interest repayment burden may crowd out credit support

### Interest repayment burden

%, both scales

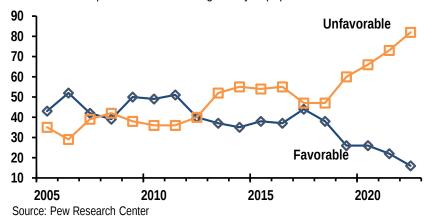


# **Challenges ahead: US-China relations**

### US public opinion on China has continued to turn more negative

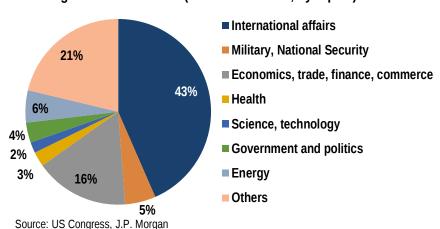
## Negative views of China continued to grow in the US

% unfavorable opinion of China among surveyed population



#### **US Congress bills on China from 2023**

### US Congress bills on China (2023-24 onwards, by topics)



### **US-China bilateral trade**

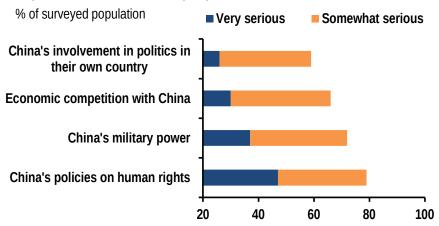
#### Bilateral trade with the US



Source: China Customs, J.P. Morgan

#### What are Americans concerned about China?

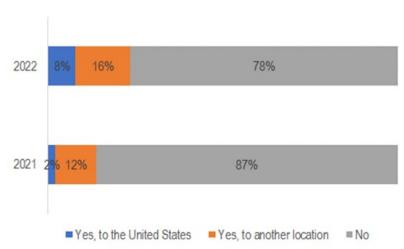
## Top concerns of American people on China



Source: Pew Research Center

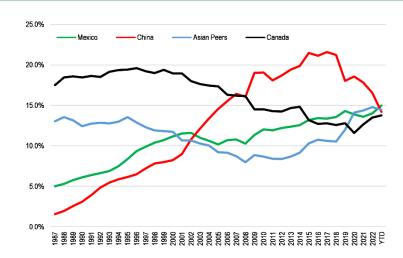
# Challenges ahead: Global supply chain relocation

## % of correspondents that moved supply chain out of China



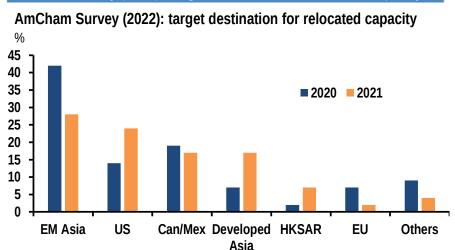
Source: US-China Business Council

### US imports by country of origin



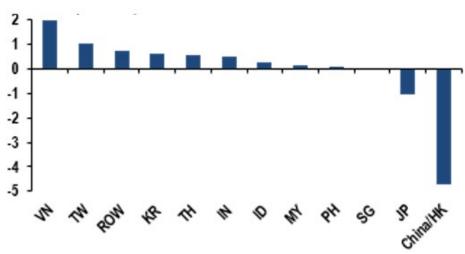
Source: U.S. Census, J.P. Morgan

## AmCham Survey (2022): Target destination for relocated capacity



Source: AmCham China, J.P. Morgan

## US import share, 2022 less 2018



Source: Census Bureau

# Challenges ahead: Global supply chain relocation

20

22

### **China exports to ASEAN and RoW**

#### China exports to ASEAN vs. rest of world

Index, 2010=100, sa, 3mma

China exports to ASEAN

China exports to ASEAN

China exports to rest of world

12

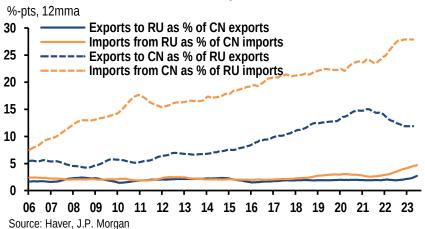
14

### China-Russia bilateral trade dependence (%, 12mma)

## China and Russia bilateral trade dependence

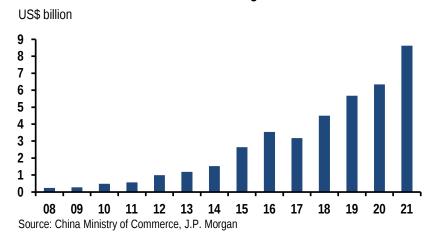
80

Source: China Customs, J.P. Morgan



## China ODI to ASEAN for manufacturing sector (USD billion)

## China ODI to ASEAN for manufacturing sector



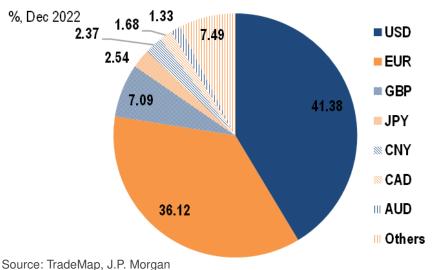
#### Announcement of commodities contracts settled in non-USD

Date	Country	Comment	Currency
Sep-17	Venezuela	Venezuela moves to sell oil and other commodities in currencies other than the dollar	CNY, JPY, RUB, INR
Feb-22	China	Russia signs a 30-year gas contract to supply 10 Bcm/annum to China, settled in euros	EUR
Jul-22	Australia	Australian iron ore spot shipments settled in yuan	CNY
Jul-22	India	Russia seeks payment in UAE dirhams for oil exports to India	AED
Sep-22	China	Gazprom will shift gas contracts with China to be settled in rubles and yuan	CNY, RUB
Nov-22	Turkey	Turkey signs deal to pay 25% of its Russian natural gas imports in rubles, remainder in euros and dollars	RUB, EUR, USD
Nov-22	Ghana	Ghana's government is working on a new policy to buy oil products with gold	gold
Dec-22	China	China seeks to buy oil and gas in yuan	CNY
Jan-23	Saudi Arabia	Saudi Arabia will consider trading in currencies other than the US dollar	others
Jan-23	Egypt	Russia is considering selling wheat to Egypt in rubles	RUB
Feb-23	India	Indian refiners pay for most of their Russian oil in UAE dirhams	AED
Mar-23	China	China completes first yuan-settled LNG trade of 65,000 tons	CNY
Mar-23	Brazil	China, Brazil strike deal to trade in local currencies, rubles and reals	RUB, BRL

Sources, J.P. Morgan Commodities Research

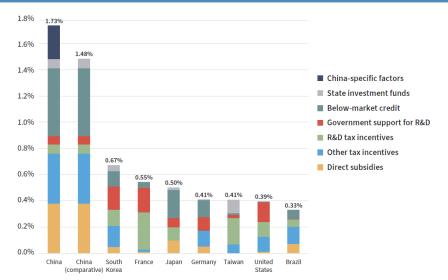
# Challenges ahead: Global supply chain relocation

#### Breakdown of global payment currency (Dec 2022)



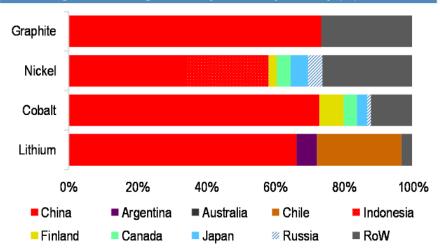
1, 0

### Industrial policy spending in key economies as % of GDP (2019)



Note: Estimates only include instruments with sufficient data for quantification. China estimates are conservative. Source: CSIS

Share of global refining of battery metals by country (%)



Note: China controls 97% of Indonesian processed nickel capacity Source: Wood Mackenzie

#### US industrial policy and technology blockage

#### CFIUS number of notices and investigations Wholesale and retail trade # of cases Mining, utilities and construction 250 250 Finance, information and services Manufacturing 200 200 China 150 150 100 100 50 50 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

Source: CFIUS, J.P. Morgan

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